

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Agriculture

2-510.

(j) At the time of settlement of the purchase of an easement, the landowner and the foundation may agree upon and establish a schedule of payment such that the landowner may receive consideration for the easement in a lump sum, or in installments over a period of up to 10 years from the date of settlement. AT THE TIME OF SETTLEMENT, THE FOUNDATION SHALL NOTIFY IN WRITING EACH LANDOWNER WHO SELLS AN AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT TO THE FOUNDATION OF THE APPLICABLE--INTEREST--RATE SCHEDULE OF ANTICIPATED RANGES OF INTEREST RATES TO BE PAID ON ANY UNPAID BALANCE AFTER THE DATE OF SETTLEMENT.

(1) If a schedule of installments is agreed upon, the Comptroller shall retain in the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Fund an amount of money sufficient to pay the landowner according to the schedule.

(2) The landowner shall receive interest on any unpaid balance remaining after the date of settlement. The State Treasurer shall invest the unpaid balance remaining after the date of settlement to mature in accordance with an agreed upon schedule of installments as provided in this section. --The unpaid balance shall be invested at the maximum interest rates payable on time and savings deposits at federally insured commercial banks.-- AT THE OPTION OF THE LANDOWNER,--THE--STATE TREASURER--SHALL--RENEGOTIATE--ANY--CONTRACT--FOR--THE--PURCHASE--OF--AN AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT--THAT--WAS--ENTERED--INTO--BEFORE--OR--AFTER--JULY 1,--1983,--THE UNPAID BALANCE SHALL BE INVESTED IN ACCOUNTS THAT MAY BE COMMINGLED,--AT THE OPTION OF--THE--LANDOWNER,--WITH--OTHER STATE--INVESTMENTS--BUT--UNDER--SEPARATE--ACCOUNTING--PROCEDURES--TO OBTAIN--THE--HIGHEST--RATE--OF--INTEREST--THAT--THE--STATE--RECEIVES--ON ITS--OTHER--DEPOSITS--OR--INVESTMENTS. Any interest earned on the invested unpaid balance shall be paid with the installment when due, less 1/4 of 1 percent.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1983.

Approved May 24, 1983.

CHAPTER 340

(Senate Bill 433)

AN ACT concerning